

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I am appalled that they would not air information about the deaths of our soldiers in Iraq because they felt it wouldn't politic, but are stepping way outside of the bounds of the law and human decency to air a smear campaign (and not just airing it; mandating their affiliates to pre-empt regular programming to do so). If this is allowed to happen it is a very sad day for us all.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Additionally, I have printed out the listing of sponsors who will support Sinclair and they will not get my dollar support. Tricky Dick Nixon tried to find something derogatory about John Kerry way back and wasn't successful. He was a bit more masterful at those things than the present regime. Thank you.